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EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT



JULY - AUGUST
1951
VOLUME XI - NUMBER IV



Architectural Concrete *chosen for huge Metropolitan Life housing project*

Parklabrea, near Los Angeles' famous "Miracle Mile" Wilshire Boulevard district, is probably the biggest architectural concrete job ever built in the United States. Owned by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, it will provide 2,754 dwelling units of architectural concrete. Part of this 176-acre housing development was begun before the war. Present construction includes eighteen 13-story buildings and seven 2-story garages.

Architectural concrete was chosen for this project because it combines economy, beauty, durability and firesafety. Moreover, both structural and ornamental parts could be cast in one operation.

Architects for the Parklabrea housing development are Leonard Schultze & Associates, New York, represented in Los Angeles by Gordon B.

Kaufmann and J. E. Stanton. General contractor is Starrett Bros. and Eken, Inc., New York. Structural engineers are Bowen, Rule and Bowen.

Whether you are designing a huge rental development like the Parklabrea project or a small commercial structure, architectural concrete is an ideal construction material. Versatile and adaptable, it can be used to create imposing and functional schools, hospitals, churches, theaters, office buildings, apartments and other structures. Concrete's long life and low maintenance cost result in **low annual cost**. That's important to owners, investors and taxpayers alike.

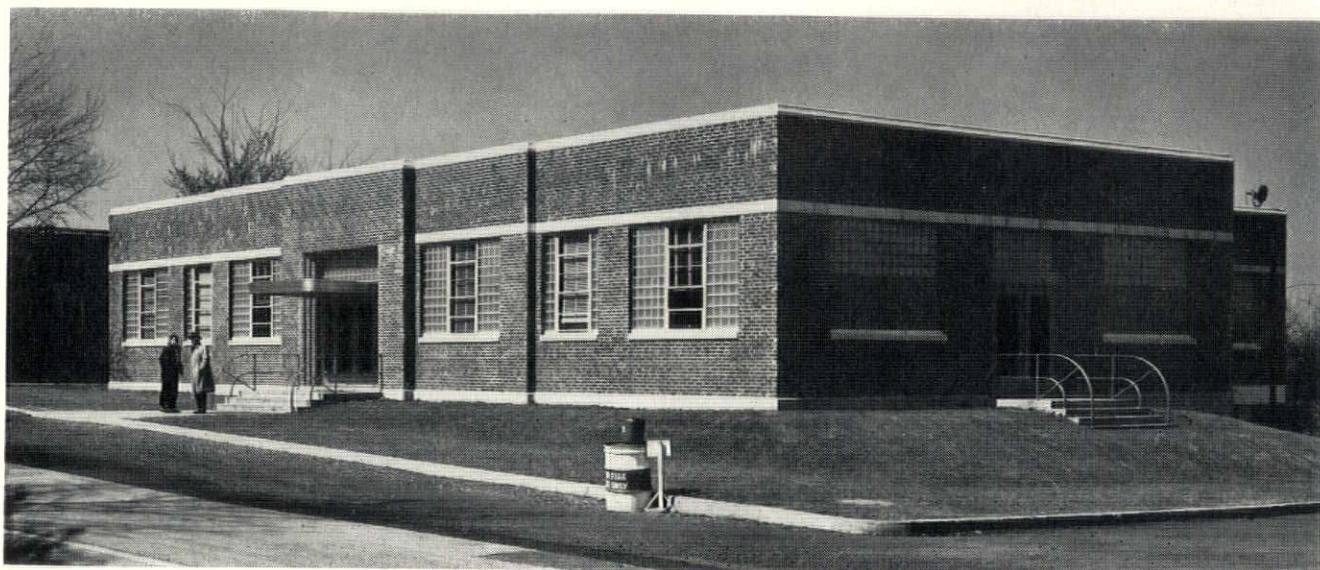
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S I N C E

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EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT



Ellison Park Apartments
Rochester, N. Y.

Faragher & MacComber, Architects

A. FRIEDERICH & SONS CO.

710 Lake Avenue

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

General Contractors

GOLD BOND ANNOUNCES

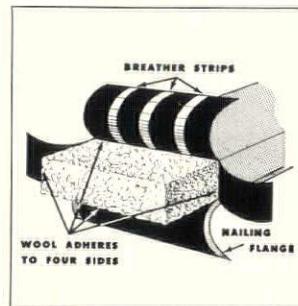
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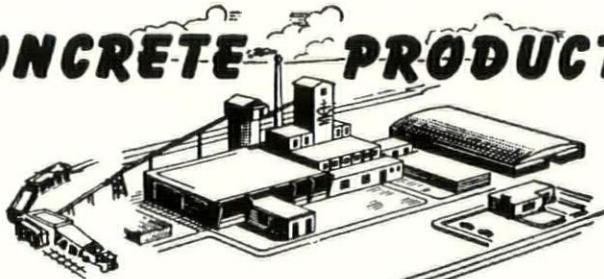
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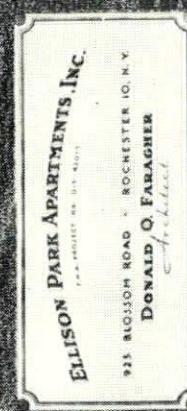
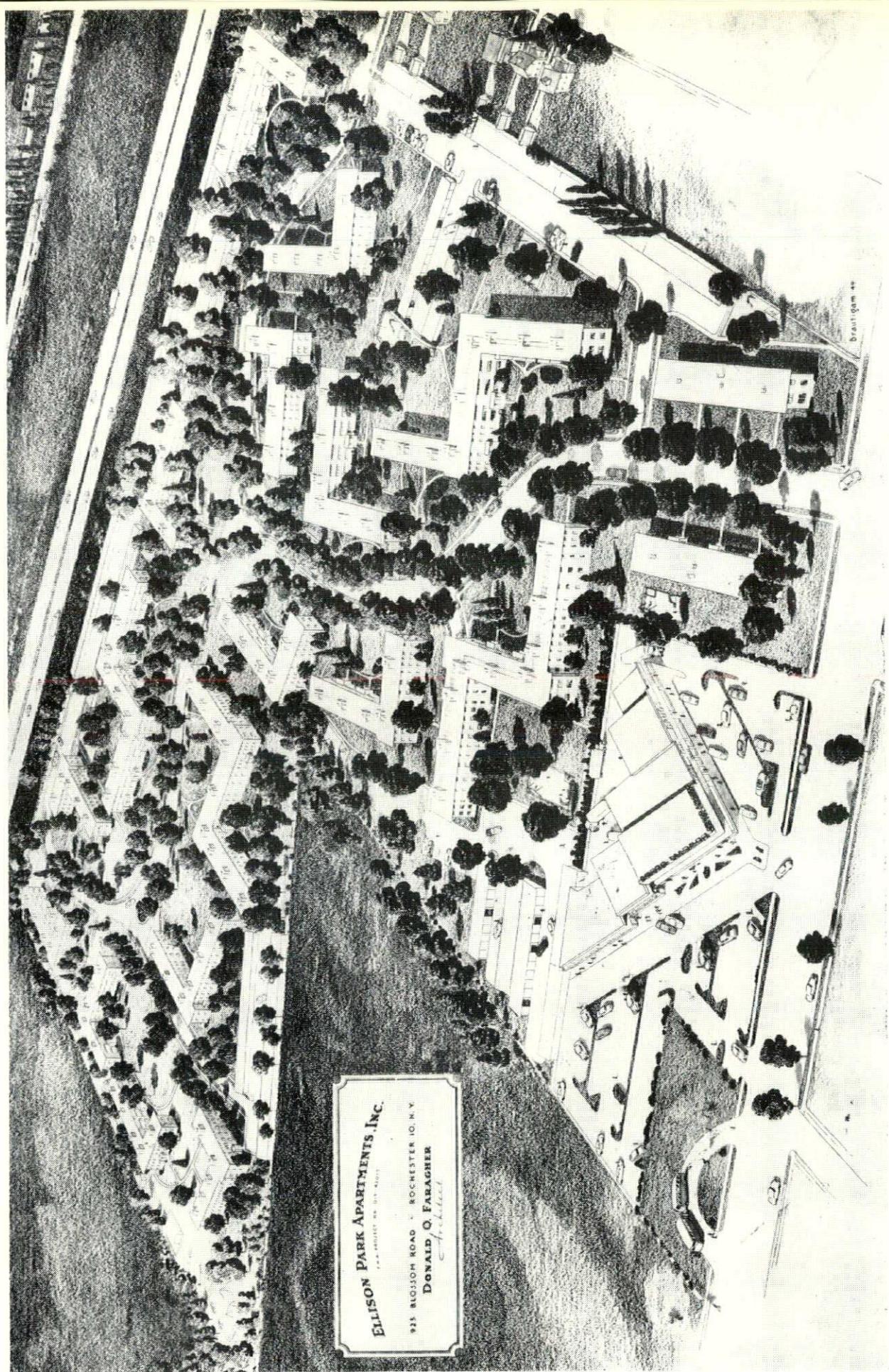
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Ellison Park Apartments

ELLISON PARK APARTMENTS

BLOSSOM ROAD, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

DONALD Q. FARAGHER
FARAGHER & MACOMBER, *Architects*



A garden apartment project consisting of 700 living units was designed with a concrete reinforced frame and tile and concrete one way slabs and masonry walls to give safe, modern living to middle income families. The site to be developed in two stages with the first stage of 386 units on the westerly portion, wholly within the City of Rochester on 18 acres of undeveloped land fronting on Blossom Road and touching for egress only on Yarmouth Road at a point near the southerly limit of the property selected for this stage. The proposed second stage of 314 living units will utilize 15 acres abutting on the city line or eastern boundary of the stage now being completed. This extension will be located within the Town of Brighton and will depend upon the present emergency controls being lifted and construction costs leveling to about the 1950 index.

The portion now nearing completion consists of 1454 Rental Rooms at \$22.71 per room with heat, light, water and equipment included, garages are provided at added rental of \$8.00 per month. Heating is by baseboard hot water heat with central boiler in each building. This project has been developed by "The Ellison Park Apartments, Inc." whose President, Mr. I. Gordon, desired to provide a sound neighborhood for the tenants and has placed the F. H. A. insured mortgage through Howard Ludington with the Bowery Savings Bank of New York City as the largest single project of fireproof construction in this State.

The individual buildings were varied in size and heights from two story to three story and from 12 living units to 54 living units each. The concrete design was developed by its flexibility and permanence by Vernon E. Warney, Consulting Engineer, and in no way restricted the desired space design of the

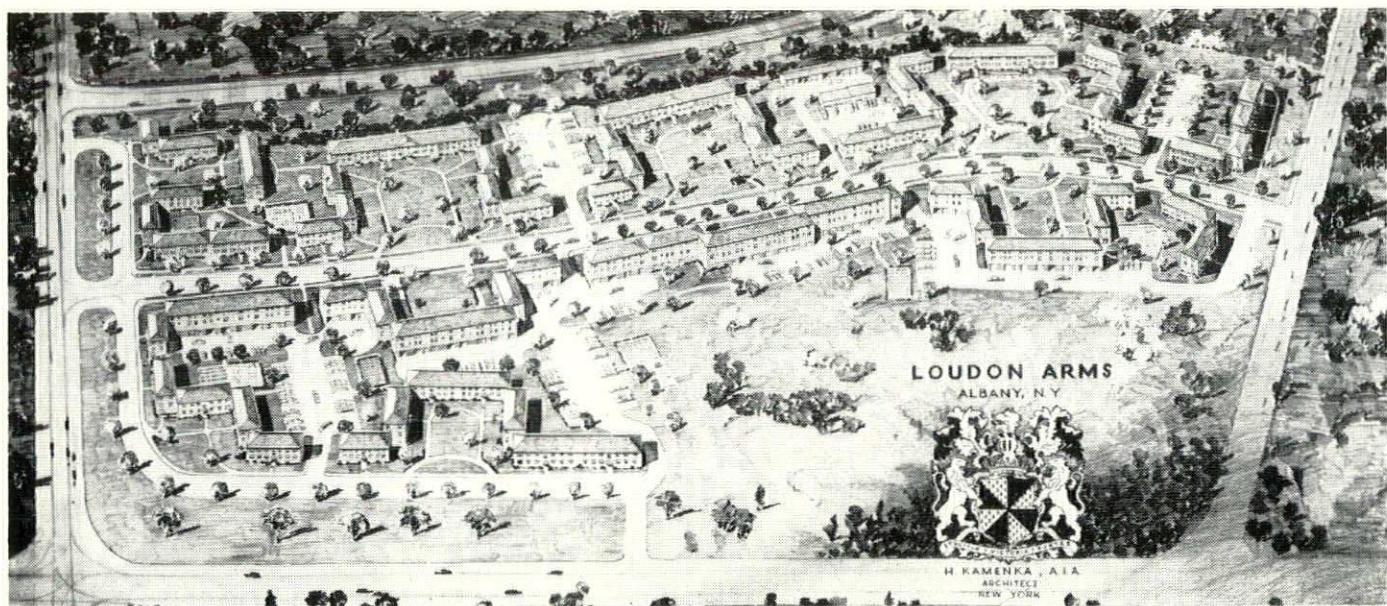


living units. Land Planning Consultant was Floyd Walkley who, together with Smith and Fitzpatrick, Civil Engineers, developed the site and have made provisions to divert surface drainage from its former course to "Little Creek" into adequate storm sewers which have been planned to serve both sections of this project and at the same time to provide sub-surface conduit in the future development to eliminate swamp area due to flooding "Little Creek" on adja-

cent lands.

The development upon completion will include a Shopping Center with off-street parking and complete one-stop mercantile facilities for the project and the neighborhood. The tenants have within a quarter mile the finest of Monroe County Parks where all outdoor winter and summer sports are available. This park is Ellison Park from which the project drew its name.

ALBANY'S LARGEST GARDEN APARTMENTS



H. KAMENKA, ARCHITECT

Located on Northern Boulevard, Loudonville Road and Shaker Road, the Loudon Arms Garden Apartments Development, construction on which started in April, is expected to be ready for its first tenants by fall.

All apartments have two and many have three exposures to take full advantage of the magnificent views afforded by the high elevation of the site. 1282 rooms in 22 buildings will house 318 families in 3, 3½ and 4½-room apartments, with all-electric labor-saving kitchens, tiled bathrooms and automatic washing machines and dryers in the basements. Ample off-street

parking is provided as well as 78 private garages, some beneath living quarters where the topography of the site permits. The grounds are to be elaborately landscaped, with children's play areas, lawns, shrubbery and trees.

The owner-builders are Kessler-Hess Associates of Jamaica, N. Y. Hippolyte Kamenka of New York City is the Architect. The project was financed by a \$2,600,000.00 F. H. A. Loan by the Bank of Manhattan Company and the New York State Teachers Retirement System.

Fresh Meadows

VOORHEES, WALKER, FOLEY AND SMITH,
ARCHITECTS



13-Story Building and Bus Shelter

Fresh Meadows, the community owned and managed by New York Life Insurance Company, in Queens, Long Island, has attracted widespread attention for the scope of its basic overall plan with its unusual consideration for the living requirements of the individual family.

From the arrangement of each apartment to the location of the various community facilities, the plan was developed to meet such important family needs as quiet and attractive surroundings, fresh air and sunlight, ample open space and play areas, safety for children, and adequate and convenient shopping facilities. Fresh Meadows combines three different types of residential buildings in a park-like setting with almost every convenience necessary for family living.

Intensive studies of various types of housing were made by the Company before the site of the former Fresh Meadow Golf Course was acquired. A total of 188 acres of land was purchased of which 22 acres were deeded to the City of New York for public streets, a school site and public sitting park.

On this site 139 residential buildings were built with a total of 3,008 apartments ranging from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 rooms. The buildings include two 13-story elevator

type, 67 three-story and 70 two-story, which are interspersed throughout the development. All are of fire-proof reinforced concrete construction. The inclusion of the multi-story and three-story buildings made possible one of the delightful aspects of the community, the low land coverage and openness of plan which provide long vistas from all parts of the development. There are 97 acres of landscaped grounds and recreational areas. Practically every apartment in every building has a view—not just of the next building, but of green grass, trees and the sky.

Fresh Meadows has a low density of population—about 17 families to the acre. The residential buildings are arranged around open informal quadrangles which create a neighborhood interest. Each open area has its own playground for small children, eliminating the need for them to cross streets for their outdoor play. In addition to the small play areas, there is a public playground, illuminated for night-time recreation, which is adjacent to the public school. There also is a landscaped area with broad lawns 600 feet by 1400 feet near the 13-story buildings which is available for recreation.



Entrance to 13-Story Building

The focus of family living turns away from the streets. In the duplex apartments, living rooms with their outdoor terraces are at the rear of the buildings and the kitchens and entrances face the streets. Most of the apartments in the three-story units have a two or three way view and cross-ventilation. The 13-story buildings were designed on the double cross arrangement with two elevators in each section of the building. There are 12 apartments opening off each elevator core. Practically every apartment in Fresh Meadows has an off-foyer plan to give privacy.

For family shopping convenience there are three commercial centers with more than 50 business establishments. Two of these are the "neighborhood" type, with super markets, delicatessen and dry cleaning, news-stand shops and one has a branch public library. The third is an air-conditioned center including a branch of Bloomingdale's Department Store, Woolworth's 5 & 10, a super market, two banks, numerous specialty stores, two restaurants, one a Horn & Hardart with waitress service, and a 2,200 seat theatre. There also is a post office, a professional building for general practitioners, specialists and dentists, and a 16-alley Bowling Center operated by Management.

Off-street parking is provided for 1,000 cars in the main center and 250 cars each for the neighborhood centers. The shopping centers are landscaped with wide walks and trees lining the streets and parking areas.

In laying out the site the architects provided for only one main street to run straight through the community. This street, however is broken by ovals to slow the traffic. The other streets are more or less continuous roadways, but are designed to slow down traffic to a safe speed.

There are four central fireproof ramp-type heated garages, each with its service center. The garages are about 50% below ground level and harmonize with the residential buildings. This type of garage was selected in preference to the row or individual type which would cover so much area and would create a disorderly appearance.

Fresh Meadows has 17 automatic laundry rooms placed throughout the development for the convenience of the families. There also are more than 20 community activity rooms provided in the basements of the three-story buildings for the use of organizations and hobby groups which have been formed by the residents.

Another unusual aspect was the inclusion in Fresh Meadows of a Nursery Center and part-time Nursery School operated by Management. Centrally located, this building has become a center of information about the pre-school child through lectures and exhibits held in its auditorium.

Fresh Meadows buildings are centrally heated by one of the largest horizontal loop systems in the world. The heating system was one of the first of such scope to be controlled from one central point. A refrigerating plant annex provides chilled water to air-condition the main shopping center.

Since the site had been a golf course, there were a number of fine large trees. One six-acre stand of oaks with an undercover of dogwood was preserved as a rustic park. Many thousands of flowering shrubs and trees were planted to round out the landscaping. The ovals on the main through street as well as the mall are planted each year with spring bulbs and summer annuals.

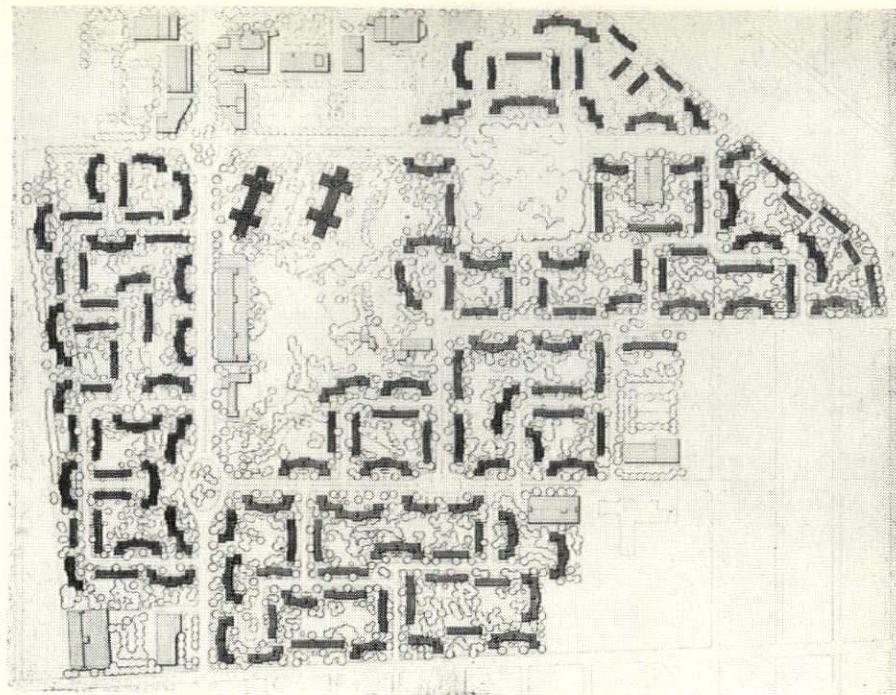
All of these elements combined in one community have attracted thousands of visitors to Fresh Meadows including architects, city planners, educators and others. Lewis Mumford, writing in the *NEW YORKER*, October 22, 1949 said Fresh Meadows is "perhaps the most positive and stimulating example of large-scale community planning in this country."



Nursery and Play Areas

Fresh Meadows is a city within a city, a planned community of 11,000 persons. After nearly two years of full occupancy, it is apparent that the foresight of the Company in considering the needs of the family

Plot Plan



group was well worth while—that apartments should be more than apartments, they should be homes not housing.

G. Harmon Gurney was chief architect representing New York Life and Voorhees, Walker, Foley and

Smith were the architects for the entire development. Fred N. Severud—Structural Engineer; Meyer, Strong & Jones—Mechanical Engineers; Alfred Geiffert, Jr.—Landscape Architect and George A. Fuller Co.—General Contractors.



View looking north on 188th St. Nursery and Garage in Center background. Also Showing the two 13-story buildings

SUTTON TERRACE

H. I. FELDMAN, ARCHITECT



The site upon which the Sutton Terrace development was built was acquired by the Tishman Realty and Construction Company, Inc. in the middle of 1948. This area has a historical background. In the 18th and 19th centuries some of New York's most distinguished families owned estates and mansions in the virgin woodland along the East River between Sutton Place and Harlem. The almost legendary Jones' Wood, scene of many picnics, outings, dances and sports events until the turn of the century extended roughly from about 62nd to 80th Streets between York Avenue and the East River. On 61st Street near York Avenue a stone house once known as "Smith's Folly" still stands and is being maintained by the New York Historical Society. It was built originally as a barn by Col. William Stephens Smith, a member of Washington's staff who married Abigail Adams, only daughter of President John Adams. In the second half of the 19th Century it became a fashionable dining and meeting place known as Kensington House. A few blocks further south stood the famous old Beekman House, built in 1763, which was used by British Generals Howe and Clinton as their headquarters during the Revolution. In it Major Andre received final instructions before going on his fatal visit to Benedict Arnold. In a greenhouse on the same grounds, Nathan Hale was brought for examination as a spy, and he was later executed, according to some authorities, at Third Avenue and 65th or 66th Street. In 1903, the last of the great Dutch farms in the area, the 200-year-old Schermerhorn property, was purchased by John D. Rockefeller for the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The farm had

for thirty years been the site of the famous Pastime Athletic Club where such track greats as Mel Sheppard and Lon Myers once trained.

Subsequently the area declined in social importance and became a large gas tank center surrounded by slum tenements. In the middle twenties, the area to the south of the Queensborough Bridge underwent a metamorphosis under the leadership of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt who reestablished the Sutton Place area as a fashionable residential center. It developed its own charm and an element of exclusiveness.

The depression and World War II retarded further progress in this as well as other areas. When building was once again resumed, it was inevitable for progressive builders to view this locality with favor as a fine residential center for people of discriminating tastes amidst quiet surroundings. While there are quite a few improvements to the south of the 59th Street bridge, the Sutton Terrace site between East 62nd Street and East 63rd Street was the first major improvement of this Sutton Place area north of 59th Street. This site has a frontage of 200' on York Avenue and a depth of approximately 500 feet on 62nd and 63rd Streets making a total plottage area of 100,000 square feet.

In the purchase of this site, the Tishmans estimated that the land cost required a housing development containing at least 1600 rooms in order to be economically feasible. They had envisioned four buildings each containing 400 rooms as a logical scheme as indicated on Plot Plan marked "B". The particular units chosen had been developed for the Tishmans by

us for another midtown site and had been given considerable study. These units on scheme B had achieved a considerable efficiency and desirability as attractive living units. On further study it was recommended by us that additional schemes be prepared to determine the comparative advantages from the viewpoint of overall design, attractiveness of the general parti, density of coverage, distribution of the building mass, concentration of open areas, number of front apartments having a river view, distribution of services, control of building from a single source, garage efficiency and relationship to buildings above, correlation of building and garden levels with a sloping site. There is a drop of 25 feet from the high point on the westerly end to the easterly end of the York Avenue frontage.

An alternate plot plan, scheme A (which was eventually adopted), was developed with three buildings using a different type of unit plan. The new units were increased in area so as to permit more rooms per floor per unit, which was not possible in the previous units due to area limitations dictated by the New York City Zoning Regulation for the plot for which it was originally designed.

A comparison of the two schemes revealed the following:

DENSITY . . . The occupied area of scheme A was substantially less.

BUILDING MASS . . . The composition of the building mass was definitely more architectural and interesting.

OPENNESS OF PLAN . . . Instead of dividing the unoccupied areas into a lot of relatively small spaces, scheme A concentrates the open areas into a one-acre central garden.

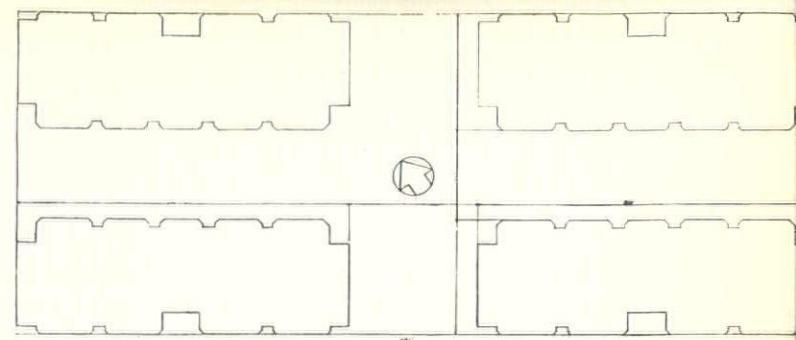
OUTLOOK FROM APARTMENTS . . . In scheme A practically all apartments are front apartments with the majority having a river view.

SERVICE . . . The combination of services such as water, sewer, gas, electricity, heating plant, roof tank, etc., was definitely more economical. Likewise the planning of cellars in a unified distribution and control was simpler and made for better management of the project.

BUILDING CONTROL . . . Entrance by tenants and guests through one point of control in center building eliminates confusion in getting in and about the project. The single main entrance requires but one doorman which is both efficient and economical for maintenance.

GARAGE . . . The "A" plot plan with its large central garden makes possible an extremely flexible garage underneath with only the front bay of columns under the buildings incorporated into the garage area. Under the garden the garage columns could be located in such a way as fit in with the car layout so as to be completely out of the way. This garage is so arranged that a tenant can reach his own elevator without going outside of the building, a thing which is difficult of accomplishment due to Multiple Dwelling Law restrictions.

CORRELATION OF BUILDINGS TO SITE . . . Due to a drop of 25 feet from the west end of the plot to the east end which is the York Avenue frontage, the levels established for the first floors to fit in with main entrance to project (in Unit No. 2) created a full story under Unit No. 1 on the York Avenue Frontage. As this lower area was unsuitable for living space, it was decided to create a shopping center for the project and also serve the immediate neighborhood. In order to accomplish this it was necessary to obtain a variance of the Zoning Regulations.



Scheme B

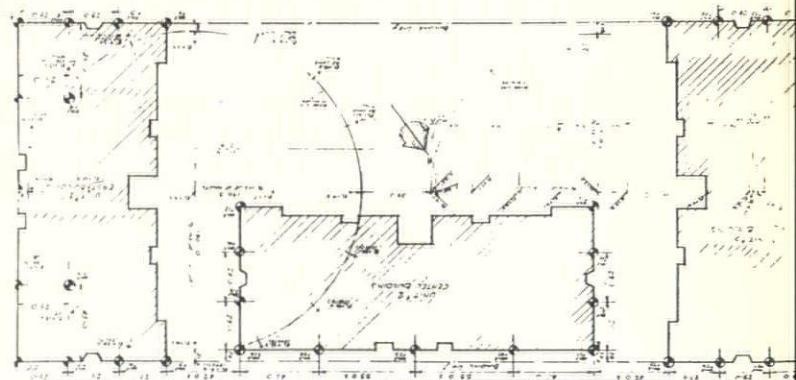
NUMBER OF ROOMS . . . Although scheme A has but three units, it provided for 100 more rental rooms than the four-unit scheme. This was made possible because of two factors. Firstly, the Zoning Regulations permitted twelve stories without a setback. Secondly, the added area in the units provided interior space utilized by kitchens mechanically ventilated. The legal requirements for courts, yards and setbacks prevented the use of building units used in scheme B, a four-unit scheme.

GENERAL ECONOMY OF SCHEME A . . . The elimination of one unit reduced the cost of construction. Besides the general economies effected by the elimination of one unit, there was a saving of the complete core which includes the stairways, elevators, incinerator, electric, plumbing, heating and many other items. The economy of the garage construction itself was considerable as a result of a large open space created by scheme A. The efficiency of the garage layout would not have been possible had it been constructed under buildings.

OVER-ALL DESIGN . . . Scheme A permitted an integrated grouping of the units into an attractive architectural composition. The buildings were treated as part of the group rather than individual buildings as would have been the case in Scheme B.

The exterior of the units are a frank expression of the plan without any attempt at architectural applique or cliches to deny their essential function or integrity. Nevertheless, there is no suggestion of monotony usually manifested in housing groups.

The exteriors are treated with selected common brick of pale red color which is rhythmically offset by white balconies and terraces. Limestone and marble are introduced to accentuate the main entrance. The first story is treated with an interesting design of moulded brick in varied arrangement. The fanciful play of light and shade produced by this treatment is one of the distinguishing characteristics of Sutton Terrace. Above the second story sill course no attempt



Scheme A

has been made to embellish except carry out the plan literally. The pleasing effect of the general composition speaks for itself.

THE FLOOR PLAN . . . The apartments are arranged in suites ranging from 2 rooms to 5½ rooms and private terrace or balcony. The majority of the 12th floor apartments are connected with one or more rooms in the penthouse. This device creates the maximum number of penthouse duplexes which are so popular. These apartments all have large private terraces. The majority of the remaining apartments are provided with terrace balconies large enough for real utility.

Each apartment is provided with cross ventilation or with interior mechanical ducts to promote air circulation. The closets, wall space and fenestration were carefully studied for convenience and livability. The

The consulting engineer for all mechanical trades was E. U. Markush, M. E.

The kitchens are streamlined with metal cabinets, refrigerators and ranges. All two bedroom apartments have a built-in dishwashing machine.

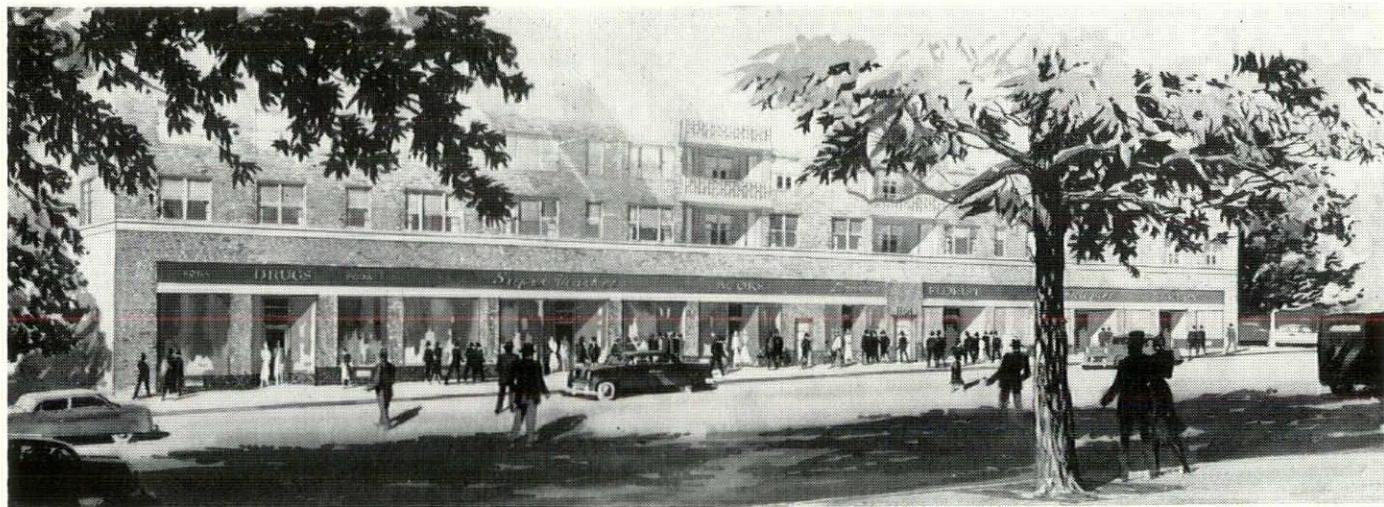
The apartment entrance doors are hollow metal, one hour test type. The bucks throughout are metal.

The interior doors are flush type and of wood.

The main entrance and vestibule doors are Herculite with Rixon hinges.

The exterior sash and frames are aluminum double hung.

The apartment floors are white oak laid in herringbone in the living spaces and in strip in the sleeping spaces. The kitchens and public corridors in asphalt tile.



Perspective of Shopping Center

outstanding feature of the plan is the feeling of spaciousness in all the apartments. The hemmed-in feeling of apartments seems to have been successfully eliminated from the general tenant reaction.

CONSTRUCTION . . . The foundations rest on rock except the easterly end which is piled. The deep excavation of the former gas tank was utilized by a four-level garage on staggered levels reached by short ramps. The garage consultant was Mr. Fred W. Moe.

The structural frame is reinforced concrete with flat slabs within room areas. The structural engineer was Weinberger and Weishoff.

There is a central heating system consisting of a two pipe vacuum with concealed convector radiation.

The plumbing system includes vitreous china fixtures, red brass hot and cold water piping and a single roof tank controlling the entire project. Each unit is provided with a standpipe and the garage is sprinklered.

The electric system is entirely in rigid conduit. Provision is made for air conditioning units in each apartment. For television there is an R.C.A. system of built-in antennae serving each apartment.

The bathroom floor and base are laid in tile. The walls around the tubs are tiled to ceiling. The lobby floors are marble.

Each unit is serviced by two high-speed passenger elevators and one service elevator running from garage level to main roof level. The service hall contains an incinerator for the tenants' use.

SPECIAL SPACES . . . On the first floor adjoining the main lobby a spacious Entertainment Suite was designed for use by the tenants. This is an unusual feature in housing design and its popularity proved immediate.

On the roof a special roof terrace and sun deck was provided for tenants' convenience and shielded from view of penthouse terraces.

A shopping center is located on lower level of York Avenue frontage. This shopping area is concealed from the residential approach to the project and yet is conveniently accessible.

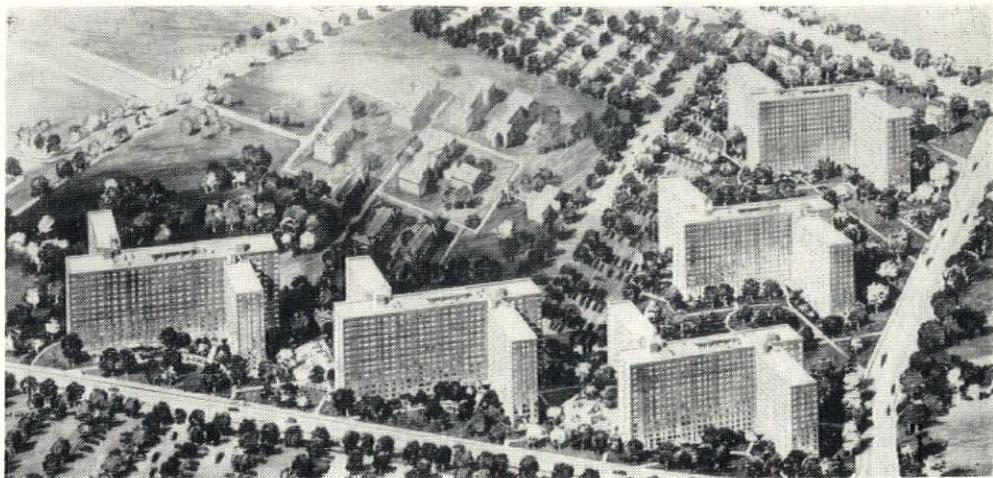
Supplementary access to each of the units has been provided in case of inclement weather so that a taxi approach can be had without exposure to weather.

(Continued on page 15.)

NEWARK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

KELLY & GRUZEN
ARCHITECTS-ENGINEERS

Sketch of Ivy Hill Park, five 14-story buildings containing 2,095 apartments, to be erected in the Ivy Hill section of Newark from plans by Kelly & Gruzen, architects-engineers. An FHA mortgage commitment of \$16,966,000 will finance the project which will be the largest FHA housing development in New Jersey. Arthur H. Padula and Ralph J. Sowol are the owner-builders.



SEVENTEEN MILLION F. H. A. LOAN BACKS NEWARK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Construction has been started on the largest private housing development in the State of New Jersey. It will consist of five 14-story fully fireproof apartment buildings providing 2095 dwelling units.

The 30-acre site is located at the highest point in Newark (505 feet above sea level). While politically within the city limits it is geographically in the finest suburban area in the metropolitan district. Only 9% of the land area will be occupied by the buildings, the balance being devoted to parks, playgrounds for the children and 100% parking for tenants. Each of the five units of 419 apartments will have four passenger elevators and a roof promenade. Ample storage space and laundry facilities are provided in the basements. The buildings are of double reversed "T" shape designed to provide maximum ventilation and sunlight for each of the apartments.

There will be 1115 three-room and 980 four-room apartments, renting for from \$73.50 to \$95.00 per month. Rent covers heat, hot water, refrigeration, janitorial service and automobile parking privileges. Arrangements have been made for Public Service bus transportation from the site to downtown Newark and the South Orange Center connecting with the D.L.&W. and the Pennsylvania railroads and the Hudson and Manhattan tube stations.

This project is not only the largest housing development in the entire state; but it is also the first to be started under Newark's revised building code which permits the use of reinforced concrete instead of structural steel. Except for the code revision the cost of the buildings would have been prohibitive since the high cost would force rents far above what middle income families could afford to pay. Kelly and Gruzen are the architects for this project. Construction will be handled by the Padula and Sowol Construction Corporation of 200 Mt. Vernon Place, Newark.

SUTTON TERRACE *(Continued)*

The central garden is one of the outstanding features of the project. Although situated in midtown on high cost land area, nevertheless an acre was set aside by means of skillful planning. The facts and figures proved it to be good business to do so in spite of lack of precedent in high land areas by private investors. Sutton Terrace may well set a pattern for large scale developments by proving the soundness of not overcrowding the land.

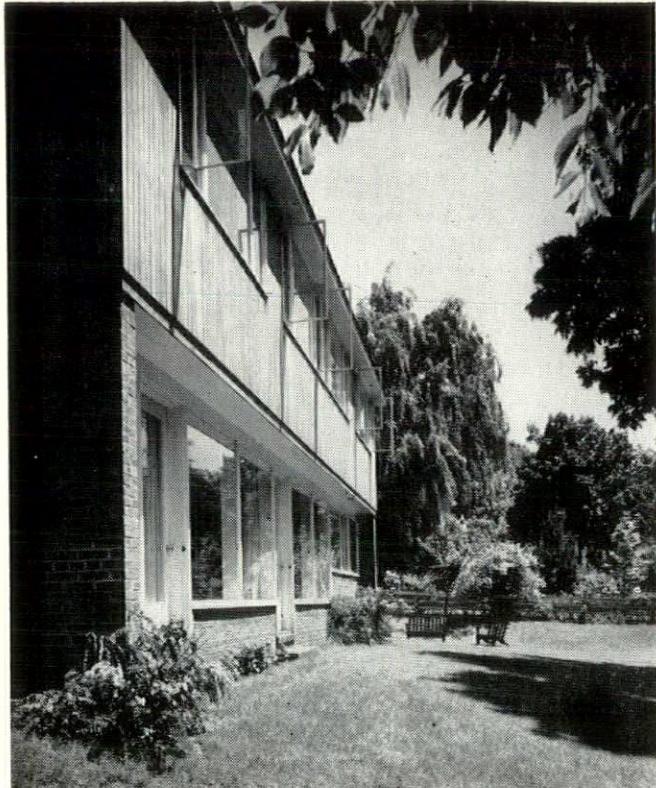
The layout of the garden, pergola and selection of trees and shrubbery was under the supervision of Mr. J. J. Levison, Landscape Forester.

The garden wall on the 62nd Street side was designed in moulded brick for aesthetic as well as practical reasons. Playing of handball will be discouraged by the irregularity of the wall surface.

The garden was designed in the nature of a private park without direct access from the street. This arrangement insures quiet and privacy for the tenants of the project.

Sutton Terrace is a complete self-contained community having its own garage, shopping facilities, entertainment suite, hobby rooms, private park and roof sun deck in a strategic location at the entrance to the uptown and downtown entrance to the East River Drive and within ten minutes of Grand Central Station.

The immediate response of the renting public, the encouragement of the financial institution and the satisfaction of our clients, Tishman Realty and Construction Company, Inc. have amply repaid the architect who dared to get off the beaten path by combining the aesthetic with the practical in a progressive site plan.



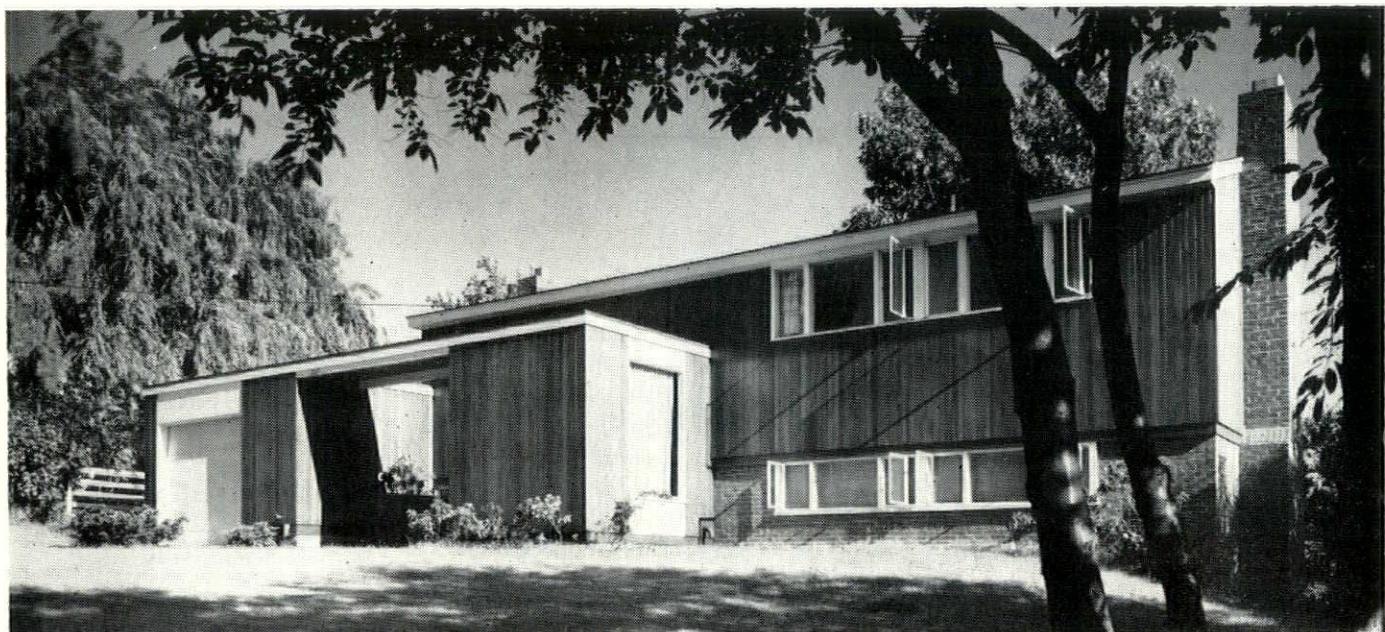
Rear View

A Hillside Solar-Type House with a three-level floor plan was awarded first prize and Certificate in the residential class at the Convention of New York State Architectural Associations. This house was designed by Olindo Grossi, architect and chairman of the Department of Architecture at Pratt Institute for his own use. The general contractor was J. F. J. Jackubowsky.

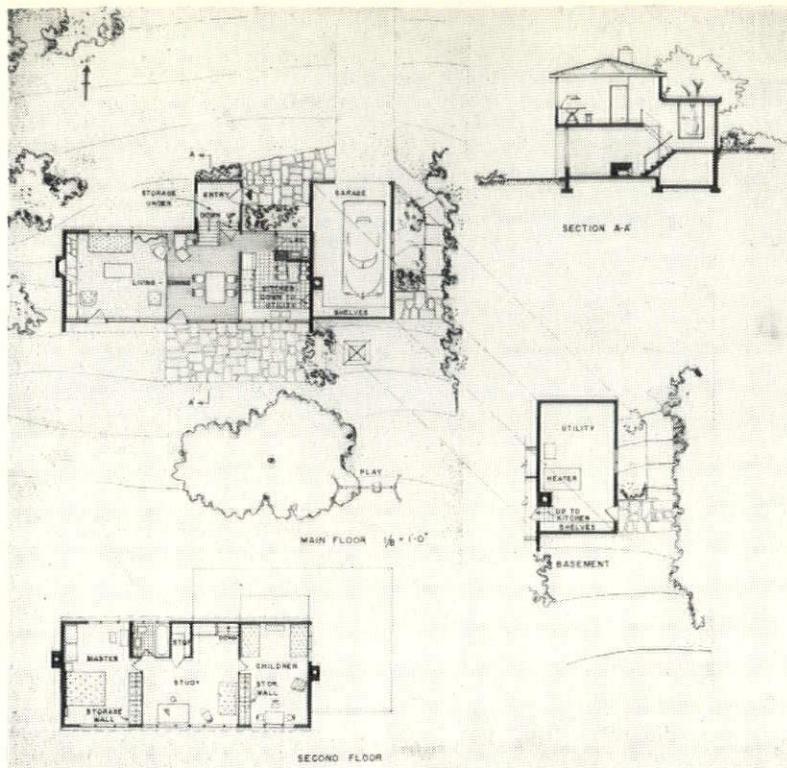
RESIDENCE

OLINDO GROSSI
Architect

From a low facade facing the street on the north, the house rises two stories in the rear, facing the outdoor living area at the bottom of the slope. The middle level of the house, at the ground level of the upper or northern side, comprises an area for the entry and for the garage. Stairs, inside the entry, give access to the upper bedroom level or to the lower living floor.



View from Street



Second Floor

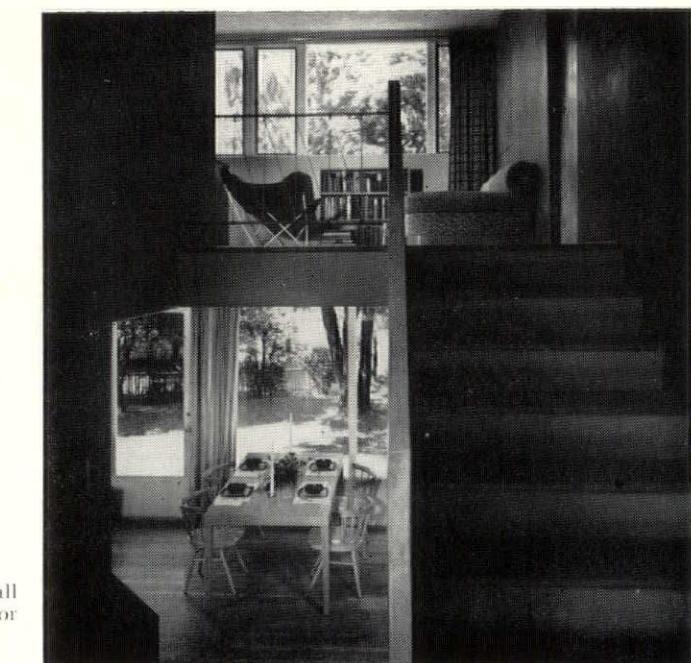
The lower level contains a large living-dining area, only partially divided from the kitchen by a plaster wall panel, at one end of which is a pass window into the dining area. The south (rear) wall of this lower level, 41 feet long, is practically all of glass.

Beyond the kitchen wall panel are the electric range, refrigerator and wall cabinets, built into an eighteen-foot continuous work counter which includes the range counter.

In the end wall of the kitchen, near the dining counter, is the entrance to the utility room, four steps below the kitchen floor level. The garage, on a reinforced concrete slab, is above the utility room.

The upper stairway in the entry of the house leads to an all-purpose area in the center of the upper floor. This area is divided from the bedrooms at the ends of the floor by movable storage walls, making it possible to adjust bedroom areas to suit family needs.

The exterior of the house has vertical California redwood siding on the upper portion and brick on the lower. Horizontal strips of windows in the north and east walls provide bilateral lighting and cross ventilation. Heating is provided by radiant ceiling panels.



Entrance Hall
Interior

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

BY CYRIL T. TUCKER AND CHARLES V. NORTHRUP

BROOKLYN CHAPTER

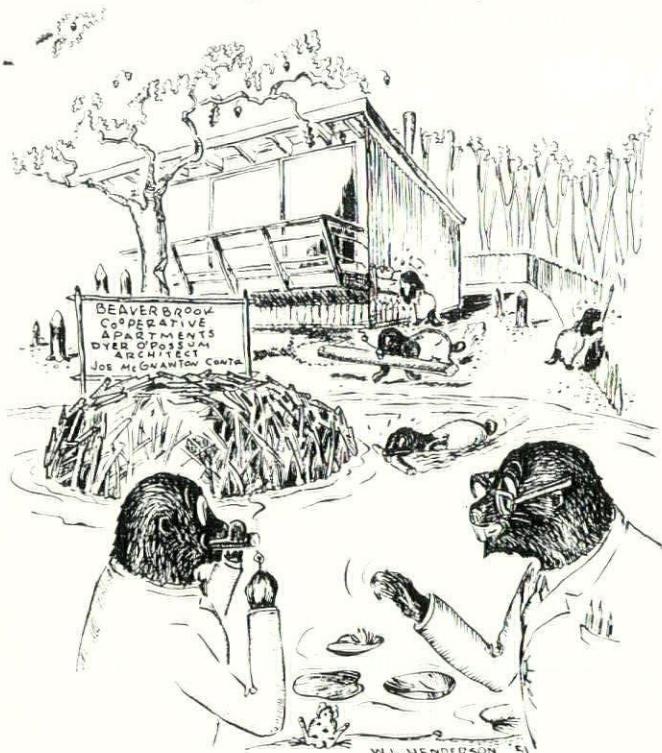
At the April 24th dinner-meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Robert H. Welz, received the Brooklyn Chapter Gold Medal of Honor which is given annually to the outstanding member of the graduating class in the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute.

At the same meeting, Chapter President Martyn N. Weston introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Frederick H. Zurmuhlen, Commissioner of the City Department of Public Works, and Director of the Public Works Emergency Division of New York City's Office of Civil Defense.

In his address on the "Role of Public Works in Civil Defense" and "the importance of the Architectural Profession in the proper defense of our nation", the speaker described the "Preparedness that will be necessary to restore physical facilities and to continue normal community functions in the event of enemy attack. This involves the mobilization of equipment and trained personnel to operate this equipment and the recruiting of many volunteers to discharge such duties as: responsibility for the removal of all debris and unsafe structures from the streets in order to allow emergency vehicles to reach the center of damage and expedite removal of the injured; shutting off of all broken water, gas, and steam mains and other broken house services; emergency repair of streets and utilities; heavy rescue work including shoring, bracing and tunneling; design and construction of all public shelters; control of illumination and blackouts; providing air raid sirens; assisting the health emergency division in the decontamination of bombed areas."

"The scope of our defense operations is indeed a challenge to Architectural thinking and I cannot overemphasize the importance of the Architectural Profession in the proper defense of our nation. The skill and knowledge of Architects are the basis upon which Public Works function properly, whether they be the construction and operation of water supply, sewage treatment plants, bridges, or public buildings—in fact, the very life lines of our daily community life which are vital to defense. This complex job of coordination in our defense program requires sound planning. Architects by training and experience, can best provide this sound planning in the field of public works. All the equipment and labor at our command would be useless in a stricken area unless careful plans have been made for the rehabilitation of such an area."

Commissioner Zurmuhlen's concluding thought was that "Civil Defense is not the sole responsibility of the City Administration but rather a community effort wherein everyone must do his



I specify birch, they run into oak so
N. P. A. says, "Use available materials"

share. This is everybody's job. Our American free way of living may depend upon it. Together we will bring comfort, not only to ourselves but to all of the people of our city in the knowledge that all precautions have been taken for their protection, safety and comfort in the event of an emergency. Let us fight to keep our republic; if we lose it, we lose all of our individual rights and all our property goes with it."

BROOKLYN CHAPTER ELECTS OFFICERS

At the May chapter dinner meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, retiring president Martyn N. Weston handed over his gavel to Vito P. Battista, newly elected president. Officers elected with Mr. Battista included Vice President Harry Silverman, Secretary Irving Marks and Treasurer Andrew Di Camillo.

Directors elected to serve for two years (1951-52) were Vincent Pellegrino, Charles Spindler and Jacob Sherman. Anthony Amendola was chosen to serve as Director for one year (1951-52).

With the receipt of its certificate of incorporation, past president Martyn N. Weston announces that the "Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Foundation" is now *au fait accompli*. This group is jointly sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of the A.I.A. and the Brooklyn Society of Architects with the express purpose of raising scholarship funds for the continued education of talented but financially handicapped architectural students. The first venture in which both organizations intend to fulfill their objective will be a dinner-dance to be held on October 27th at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn. Proceeds from this event will be used for several scholarships. Treasurer Harry Finkelstein of 153 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, will be pleased to send tickets to all who are interested in this worthy cause.

According to reports from the Chapter delegation, except for some inconveniences at the Navy Pier, the recent A.I.A. convention in Chicago was a huge success. As usual our past president E. James Cambiaro was one of the convention's most active participants. In addition to his diligent performance as chairman of the convention resolutions committee, he also composed and read the following expression of the gathering's appreciation, high esteem, and deep affection for retiring president Ralph Walker:

WE ADD A SPRIG TO HIS LAUREL
Architect of Skill, of Beauty and Achievement
Creator of Music in Forms Articulate
Structures Straight, Strong and Bold,
Of Concrete, Stone, Iron, Steel and Glass

To Lofty Heights Aspiring,

Polychrome Effects in Nature's Ever Changing Moods,
Expressing Man's Emotions and Desires
He Has Served Us Well Throughout the Years,
And Is Honored by all that Man can Bestow
Like Widening Circles Upon the Waters
His Warm Influence Inspires
As We Grasp His Message of Ideas High
While We Look Towards Horizons Broad
We Add This Sprig to his Laureled Head

IN MEMORIAM
HARRY L. YAKEL
FORMER SECRETARY AND VICE-PRESIDENT
Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.
Died June 16, 1951

HOW VAIN IT IS TO GIRD OUR LOSS WITH WORDS, BUT WE MUST SAY WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE THIS DAY. ESTEEMED BY ALL FOR MANNER WARM AND LOYALTY FIRM. WE KNOW THAT THROUGH COMMON WANTS OF LIFE HIS DUTIES HE NEVER SHIRKED. TO HIM A PLACE OF REST AND PEACE AND EVERLASTING JOY. WHILE HIS PATH CLOSED ON THE TWILIGHT, IT OPENS ON THE DAWN — HE LIVES AGAIN IN THE FUTURE LIFE.

FAREWELL
Members of the Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.

BUFFALO-WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

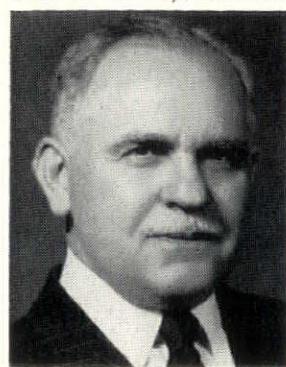
Delegates present at the National Convention were Louis Greenstein, Paul Harbach, Jack Highland, Jim Kidney, Rufe Meadows, Jim Whitman and Mort Wolfe.

(Continued on page 26.)

NEWS OF INTEREST

NEW YORK CHAPTER, A.I.A. ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Francis Keally, nationally known for his design of hotels and public buildings and for his many contributions to architectural and consumer publications, was elected President of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. Other officers elected were Mortimer E. Freehof, Vice-President; Frank G. Lopez, Secretary; and Jonathan F. Butler, Treasurer. New members elected to the Executive Committee were Ronald Allwork, to 1953 and B. Summer Gruzen and Olindo Grossi to 1954.



Francis Keally

BROOKLYN CHAPTER ANNOUNCES NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROGRAM

Vito P. Battista, recently elected President of the Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A., has announced that the chapter has undertaken as a public service a neighborhood planning civic program to coordinate all public buildings. Mr. Battista, co-designer of the Brooklyn Civic Center, emphasized that the coordination of public buildings will include housing in the surrounding areas and adequate underground parking facilities.

When the planning program is completed, it is intended to present it in brochure form to Mayor Impelliteri; John J. Bennett, Chairman of the City Planning Commission; John Cashmore, President of the Borough of Brooklyn; Frederick Zurmuhlen, Commission of Public Works and other public officials who should be interested in modern concepts of city planning.

FREE 20-PAGE BOOKLET ON PERIMETER INSULATION

The ever-increasing number of basementless houses using concrete slab floors on grade has created the need for effective insulation below grade around the foundation wall. This is because the concrete in floor slabs and the masonry in foundation walls conduct heat 30 to 35 times faster than the below-grade insulating materials now available.

Perimeter insulation is installed along the inner face of the foundation wall before the floor slab is poured. Step-by-step instructions with diagrams cover every detail of installing perimeter insulation. Three types are available.

The free 20-page booklet, "The Story of Perimeter Insulation for Standard Heating Systems", may be obtained by writing Dept. P. I., Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation, Toledo 1, Ohio. Please mention Empire State Architect when you write.

AIR CORPS VETERAN WINS LEBRUN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Joseph Norwood Bosselman, 26, of Harrisonburg, West Virginia, who served in the South Pacific during World War II, has been awarded the 1951 LeBrun Traveling Scholarship of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., for the most competent design for a Motel to be erected on the outskirts of a town of 30,000. A requirement of the design was consideration for the use of the building in time of emergency.

Mr. J. Bruno Basi, Chairman of the LeBrun Scholarship Committee, stated that Mr. Bosselman's solution most successfully coordinated the major elements of the problem, that all building units were in proper balance and that the design was modern, attractive and well suited to its use.

Mr. Bosselman is the 24th winner of this scholarship which provides \$2800.00 to cover a trip of at least six month's duration in Europe. Honorable mention was awarded to John H. Bardes of Philadelphia.



LeBrun Scholarship committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects judging competition entries for the 1951 award.

Left to right, chairman J. Bruno Basil, Thorne Sherwood, Randolph Evans, Robert I. Carson and Leopold Arnaud, (Maurice R. Solo not present).

The 1951 LeBrun Traveling Scholarship was awarded to Joseph Norwood Bosselman, of Harrisonburg, Va.

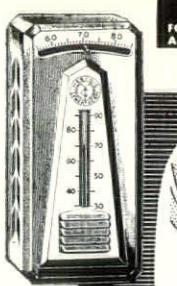
REVISED EDITION OF "ARCHITECT'S BIBLE"

The fourth edition of "Architectural Graphic Standards," probably the most widely used reference book for architects, draftsmen, engineers, and builders was published in May by John Wiley & Sons.

The authors, Charles G. Ramsey and Harold R. Sleeper, have been associated in private practice in New York City for the past thirty years. In a foreword to the new edition, Ralph Walker, recently retired president of A.I.A. says, "This handbook is an encyclopedia of all sorts of building information that is tested and true—a valuable reference for all of us who work in architectural and allied fields.

The new book of 614 pages is almost double the size of the third edition. It includes 566 plates 9" x 12½" and a 50-page index including 12,000 entries cross-indexed under every conceivable heading. New subjects in the fourth edition are special fireplaces, pre-cast concrete joists, corrugated glass roofing and siding, steel stairs, modular casement windows, eaves and water tables for flat roofs, fiber board and wallboard for interiors, acoustical data and materials, television and home movie installations, parking garages, contemporary furniture and electric stairways.

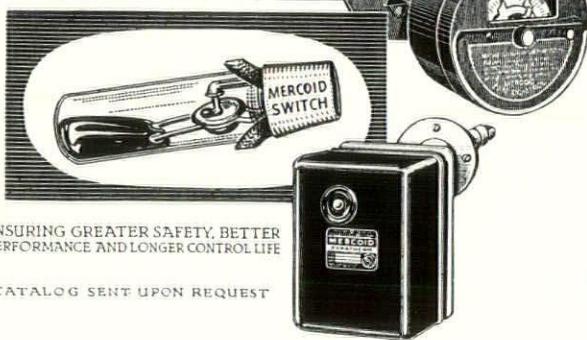
The 614-page volume is priced at only \$10.00. Mention the Empire State Architect when you order your copy from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Publishers, 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.



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THAT NECESSARY EVIL, THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

BY THOMAS H. MCKAIG

Times like these, when anything one might write on construction matters is out of date before it gets to be printed, either through economic changes or government edict, make a person wonder just what to use for a periodic letter such as this. And so I am falling back on one of my pet themes, a greater participation by members of the planning professions in extra curricular activities—in civic affairs, in church and other organizational boards, in all kinds of activities where their type of education and experience along lines of systematic planning will benefit the community—no matter in how small a measure. Although I advocate that this interest be based on purely unselfish motives, it is my opinion that sooner or later, these unselfish motives will pay dividends, often from entirely unexpected sources.

Although my observations are those of an engineer, they apply with equal force to the architect. I am thinking particularly of the preponderance of members of the legal profession on civic boards of all sorts, —even in some instances on planning boards or zoning boards. With all due respect for the abilities of our sister profession (or is it brother), we are quite as capable, and for many jobs, more fitted to the job in hand, than are the lawyers. I am reminded of an experience of my own of a few years ago. I have for many years been an active library trustee, and have extended my interests and activities beyond local library affairs, into state and national circles. On one occasion, as Chairman of the Legislative Committee of N. Y. L. A., I talked to the head of library affairs

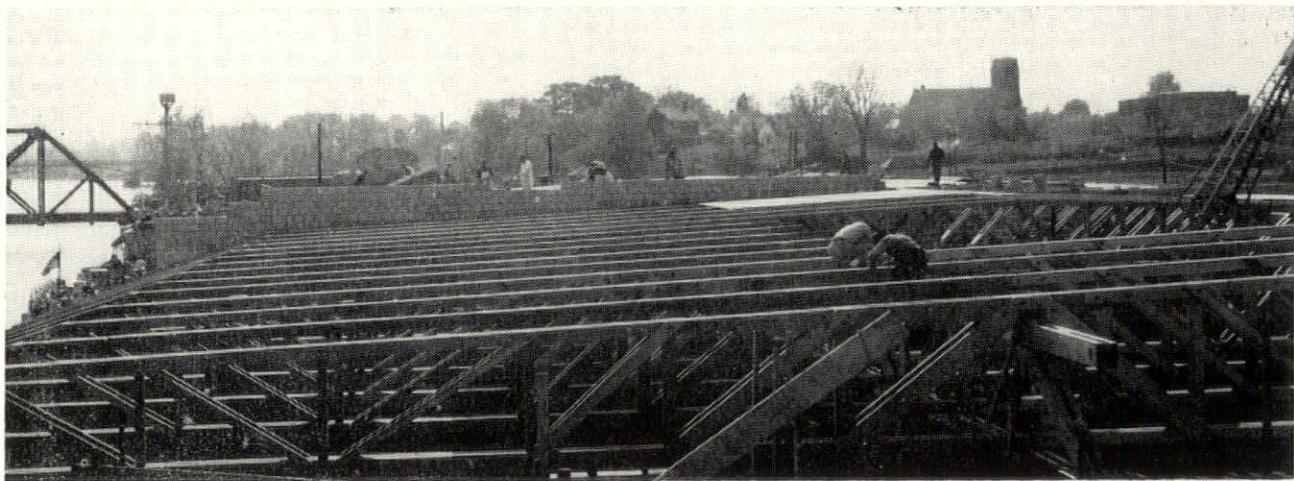
in our neighboring province of Ontario, which had recently been successful in promoting a legislative campaign for provincial aid. After a few minutes conversation, he remarked, "What is your occupation, Mr. McKaig? You are not a lawyer, are you?" I told him how I earned my living and he replied,—"Well I was interested because yours is a different basic philosophy from that of the lawyers who head most such committees. The lawyer's philosophy is based on tradition. It has never been done, therefore it cannot be done. The engineer's philosophy is,—here's a job to be done. What's the easiest and best way to get it done."

There is another statement that I like to quote also. Many years ago in conversation with an elderly architect whose son was at that time an engineering student, I asked him what line of engineering the son intended to follow. He replied,—"Oh, he probably won't go into engineering at all. He will probably go into some business. I told him if he took an engineering course first, he could follow up with any other course he wanted to take. But to train him to think systematically, I insisted that he take engineering first."

It is this different basic training—basic philosophy—which is referred to in the two above quotations,—that is needed in more of our civic affairs. We are trained to think in terms of future needs,—of economics not merely for today, but for years ahead. Therefore, I say, don't ever pass up an opportunity to serve your community in any capacity which may present itself. Help your profession by serving.

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Interior columns are kept to a minimum; trusses are shallow; fire and parapet walls are relatively low. Required materials are economical and readily obtainable; deliveries prompt. Our engineer representative will call at your request.



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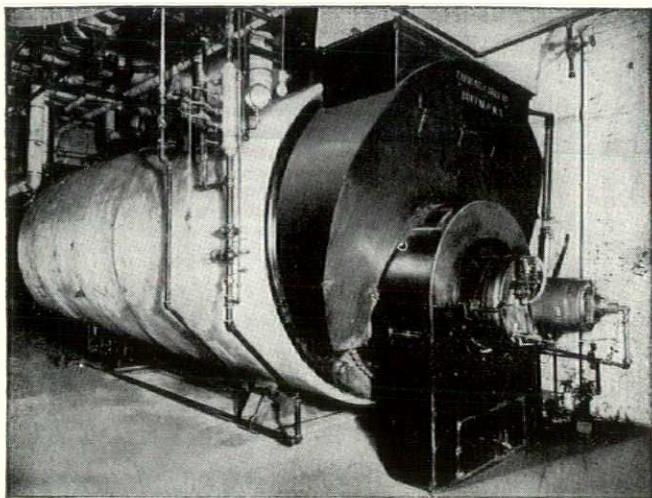
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STATE BUILDING CODE COMMISSION APPOINTS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The New York State Building Code Commission today announced the appointment, effective June 1, of Albert P. Backhaus as Technical Director. Mr. Backhaus, who is at present the Principal Building Engineer of the State of Maryland, has taken a leave of absence from that position to accept this appointment. He succeeds Emil J. Szendy, who has resigned.

Mr. Backhaus is a graduate of the University of Maryland College of Engineering. Prior to appointment as Principal Building Engineer in 1947, he served for two years as Structural Engineer of the Maryland Department of Public Improvements. He has also served as Executive Secretary of the Building Code Committee of the State of Maryland.

Mr. Backhaus saw active duty with the U. S. Corps of Engineers from 1941 to 1946, and holds a commission as lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve.

AWARD

Eugene Raskin, assistant professor of architecture at Columbia University, has been awarded a Langley Fellowship for 1951-52 by the American Institute of Architects. The award will allow Professor Raskin, who will be on sabbatical leave from Columbia next year, to write a book on the theory of architecture.

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BUILDING NEWS

STICHMAN PRAISES BUFFALO'S REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Plans of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority for an extensive slum clearance and new housing program were praised by State Housing Commissioner Herman T. Stichman as an example for other municipalities to follow in making the most effective use of State funds to better living conditions.

The four-pointed redevelopment program will provide new housing, clear slum areas, help build a new park and furnish sites for municipal parking facilities. Through good planning the allotted State funds will benefit the entire city by aiding in the sound redevelopment of several areas, improving neighborhood living and helping business generally. A new parking facility for about 400 cars will be developed in a downtown area and additional parking will be provided by clearing a sub-standard two block area adjacent to two schools.

GLENN STANTON OF PORTLAND NEW PRESIDENT OF A.I.A.

Glenn Stanton of Portland, Oregon, for the past two years First Vice-President of A.I.A., was elected to the Presidency at the Chicago Convention in May. Other officers elected were Kenneth E. Wischmeyer of St. Louis, First Vice-President; Norman J. Schlossman of Chicago, Second Vice-President; Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit, Secretary; and Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, Treasurer.

Regional directors elected to serve to 1954 were Leonard H. Bailey of Oklahoma City for the Central States District; G. Thomas Harmon III of Columbia, S. C. for the South Atlantic District; Charles O. Matcham of Los Angeles, for the Sierra Nevada District; and Edward L. Wilson of Fort Worth, for the Texas District.

BUILDING SLUMP IN NEW YORK STATE INTENSIFIES HOUSING EMERGENCY

In his monthly analysis of State-wide construction activity, State Housing Commissioner Herman T. Stichman pointed to the continual decline in homebuilding as an inevitable result of Federal Regulation X promulgated in October, 1950. He warned again that unless present unsound Federal practices are soon corrected the "boom-and-bust" status of the building industry would be intensified, labor unsettled and the need created for more emergency housing of the kind that has proven so costly, wasteful and unsatisfactory. The following table compares homebuilding for the first five months of 1951 with the 1950 figures for the comparative period. Note the decline in homebuilding while commercial construction (much of it for non-defense purposes) shows a tremendous increase.

New Public Housing started in 1951 comprised 4,023 dwelling units valued at \$37,886,300 as compared with 799 units valued at \$6,404,992 during the same period of 1950.



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AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS (Continued)

The first group of architects and engineers have been trained and are ready to start teaching classes in blast effect as soon as wardens are recruited. The second group will start training in the near future.

Three control center teams have been appointed and are ready to go into action when needed.

The following men have agreed to serve on a committee to formulate the proposed Board of Appeals.

Guy Baldwin
Don Love
Jim Kidney
Rufe Meadows
Ros Pfohl

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

The annual meeting of the Central New York Chapter was held June 2nd at the Sherwood Inn at Skaneateles. This is the first annual meeting to be held on the newly adopted spring date. The idea being that it gives the new administration all summer to get organized.

The President announced that the matter of fees and a fee schedule for the chapter would be one of the topics taken up at the summer meetings of the Board. The various committees gave their reports.

The election of officers followed and the following officers were elected:

D. Kenneth Sargent — President — Syracuse, N. Y.
Thomas W. Mackesey — V. Pres. — Ithaca, N. Y.
Frank C. Delle Cese — Treasurer — Utica, N. Y.
Cyril T. Tucker — Secretary — Rochester, N. Y.
Charles V. Northrup — Dir. 3 Yrs. — Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. Paul Nalen addressed the meeting on "The Modern Financing of Commercial Buildings". The attempt to boil Mr. Nalen's talk down to a few words is a rank injustice since his topic is so vital; financing is the life blood of any project, as we all have learned to our sorrow at one time or another. Appraisal is the yardstick of financing and depends on four factors: location, design and construction, management and sponsorship. If any one of these is faulty, the appraisal suffers, the financing

becomes difficult and the project is stalled. The architect is the key man in this picture since he knows as much if not more about these factors on his project than anyone else.

Following Mr. Nalen's talk, the membership journeyed to nearby Auburn where Wally Beardsley conducted a tour of a number of his projects and his offices. The evening meeting started with Mr. Cummings initiating the retiring president, C. Storrs Barrows, into the loyal order of past presidents.

Then followed a talk by Mr. Johnstone on the "Education of the Architect". This was undoubtedly addressed to the teaching staffs of our architectural schools, since most of the architects present must have felt they are past being educated. The problem does touch them, however, and the ability or lack of it which the young graduate shows when faced with actuality in the architect's office. Mr. Johnstone did feel that the colleges are still too theoretical and not practical enough. This is a subject which will probably be forever debated. There are those who feel that college is the only place where theory can be stressed.

Delegates to the National Convention were Messrs. Dillenbach, Sargent, Northrup, Chambers, Mackesey, King and Cummings.

The applications for associate membership of Harold Robert Mills of Syracuse and Robert Taylor Clark were accepted. The application of Mortimer Eugene Bacon for corporate membership in the Institute was received and accepted.

On June 19th the Executive Committee of the chapter met at the University Club in Syracuse to organize for the coming year. A tentative program of activities was adopted and the various committees were appointed.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

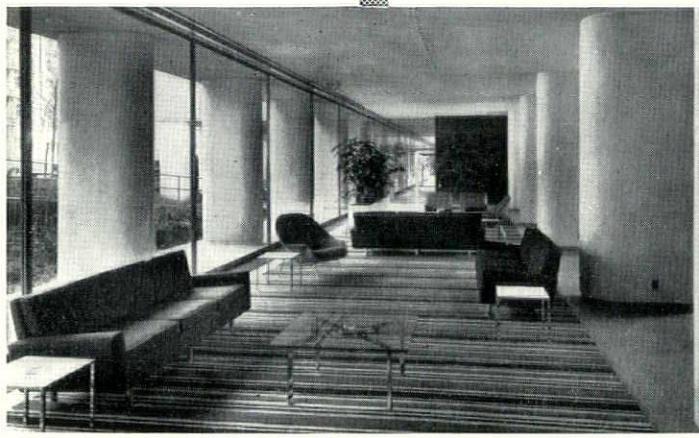
The Institute has adopted Report No. 1 of the Chapter's Committee on Civil Defense to be used as a guide on the role of the architect in civil defense.

Credit goes to Morris Ketchum, Jr., Chairman, and the members of his Committee on Civil Defense.

This report was the first in a series of four already produced by this Committee, each one of which has attracted wide attention among the public and members of the profession.

OUTSIDE

OR INSIDE



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ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

At the annual meeting and dinner of the Rochester Society of Architects which was held in May, the following officers were elected:

John W. Briggs — President
Donald C. Hershey — 1st Vice President
John Wenrich — 2nd Vice President
G. Carroll Madden — Secretary
Allen Macomber — Treasurer
Walter Wiard — Director—3 years

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

From all accounts the Annual Dinner and Entertainment of May 4th, for the benefit of the Charles A. Dewey Memorial Scholarship Fund, was a roaring and financial success. Though 300 tickets were sold, 265 customers were fed. The net proceeds passed the five century mark—all for the benefit of a talented young man.

The fare was excellent, but unfortunately, the service was too slow, due to a shortage of waitresses. And the hall, including its appurtenances proved to be inadequate for such a large gathering. The entertainment was up to par, though a couple of female contortionists appeared to have lost their agility.

Pres. Halbert disposed of the A.I.A. bronze medallions, of Bill Keller design, by giving them to all the past-presidents of the Chapter who were present. The medallion is something to be proud of and to cherish; it can serve as a paper weight, worn as a lavaliere, or perhaps as a pendant for a watchfob. Anyway, all recipients were grateful for the memento.

Among the guests was a budding architect, son of the late Charley Dewey.

The ubiquitous Jim Cook was the emcee; Ed Fleagle announced the scholarship winner (a Yonkers lad, of course!).

So, our thanks go to Bob McCoy and the members of the Program Committee, for another job—well done! All had a good time.

The attendance at the April meeting — was about average, including the usual dependables.

(Continued on page 31.)

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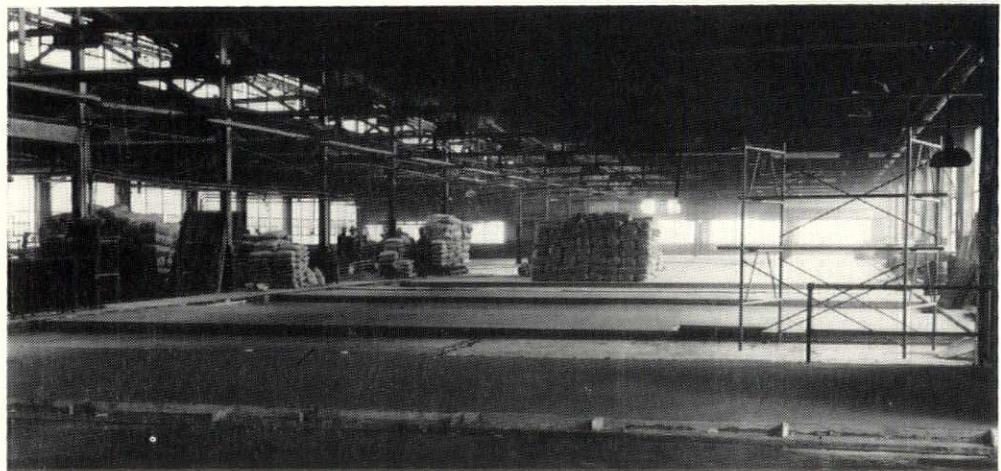
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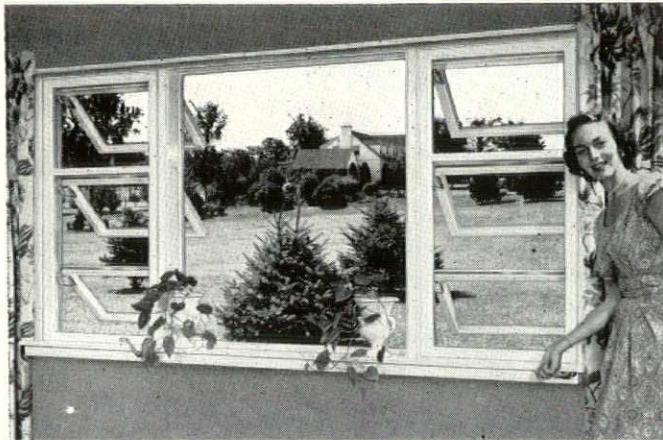
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Immediately after dinner, Dave Oppenheimer and his cohorts in crime, all of the U. S. Plywood outfit, went into action and put on a show. And we dare say, at this point, if you have not seen that dramatic story in technicolor, of the making of plywood—from the toppling of the giant Douglas fir, to the finished product—"Man and boy, you have missed something!" And from the consensus of a highly attentive audience, the lecture was a real treat, entertaining and educational. A complete exhibit of the U.S.P.'s products was on hand and Dave and his co-workers were on their toes during the question and answer period.

Fred Voss, fresh from the A.I.A. Convention spoke from an official delegate's point-of-view. Fred Sutton, the other delegate was absent.

By-the-by, did you hear that Bart Walther is now Chief Draftsman of the York & Sawyer outfit? No more "concrete mixes" for Bart to worry about! And, that Fred Porter is associated with Ted Richards? To what extent, we haven't learned.

The regular meeting adjourned at an unusual early hour. We have since learned, that later the Board of Directors disposed of the routine business.

SYRACUSE SOCIETY

The Syracuse Society of Architects held its regular election of officers at the meeting of June 7 at the Persian Terrace, Hotel Syracuse. Heading the list of nominees which were unanimously elected is J. Murray Hueber as president. Wolfe Markam is our new vice president and Arthur C. Friedel, Jr. is secretary and treasurer. The directors elected for varying terms are: S. Elmer Chambers, William Schaar, Barrington P. Gilmour, Lester Young, and James Schindler. The new projects and organizations are still in embryonic form but we have all indications of continued activity of most of the committees and groups and there will be some new ones performing needed functions.

One of the first things confronting us after elections was the problem of housing for the several hundred families now living in temporary quarters at the former Syracuse Army airbase. These facilities will no longer be available and families living there are having great difficulty finding other homes. To assist in this problem the Syracuse Housing Authority organized a series of informative discussions to advise those families capable of home ownership. Members of the Syracuse Society participated and a limited service small house program is being offered to interested families. This is an extension of the Small House Service organized by the society after World War II.

Recently the society was given a guided tour of the soon-to-be-completed Syracuse and Onondaga County War Memorial building. Architect-Engineer Edgerton and Edgerton made themselves available and the many features of this interesting building were explained.

Of note to Syracuse Society members is the election of D. Kenneth Sargent as president of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His slate is filled out by Dean Thomas Mackesey as vice president; Cyril T. Tucker, secretary; and Frank C. Dellesesse, treasurer. Directors are Charles V. Northrup, Dean L. C. Dillenback, and Webster C. Moulton. The Syracuse Society extends its best wishes to these men.

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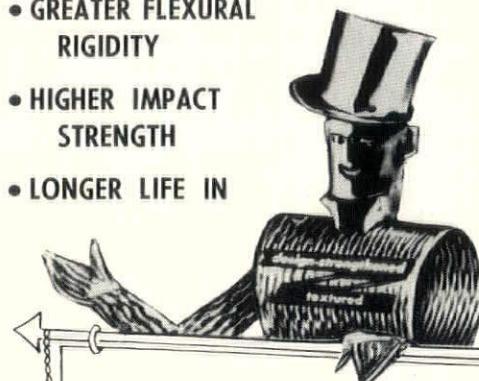
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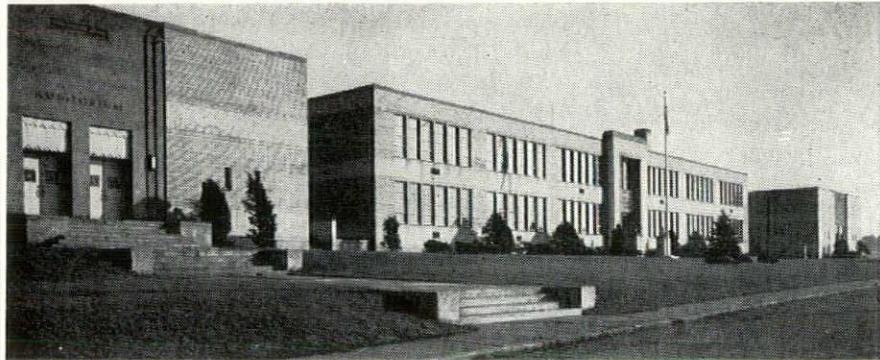
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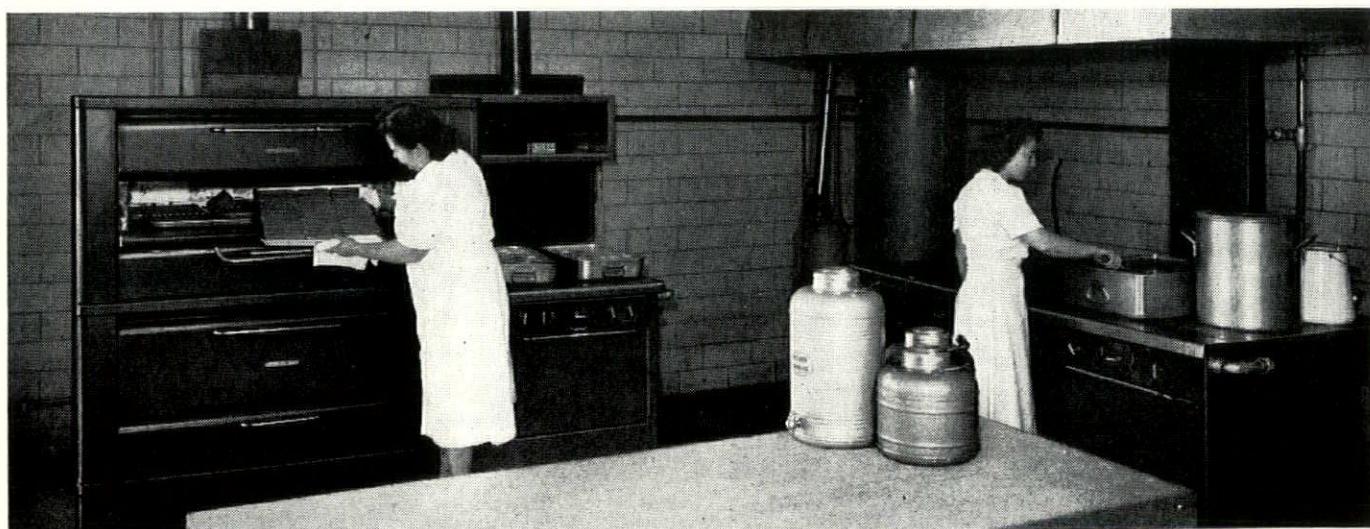
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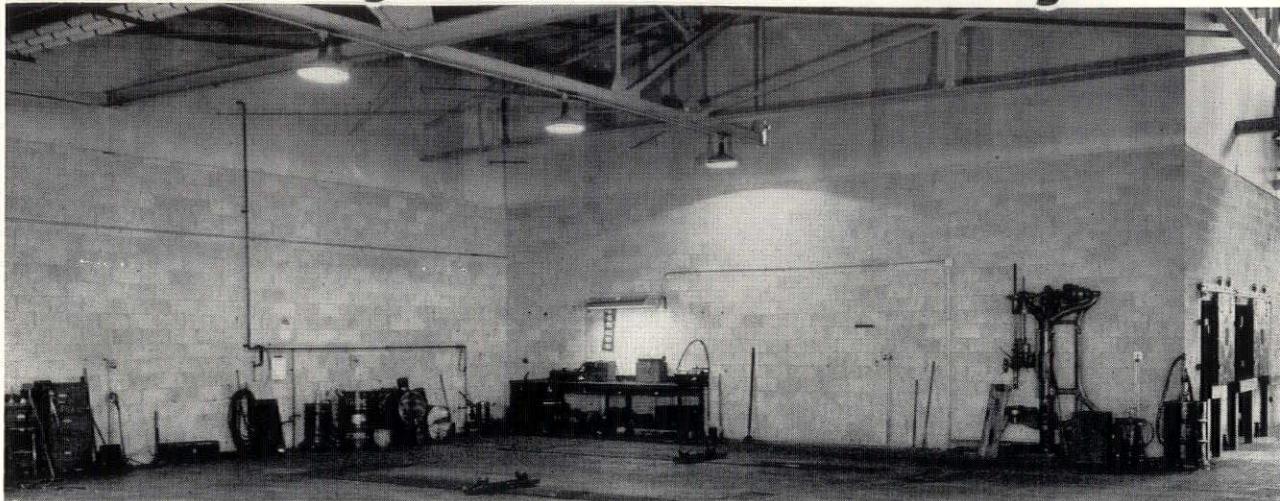
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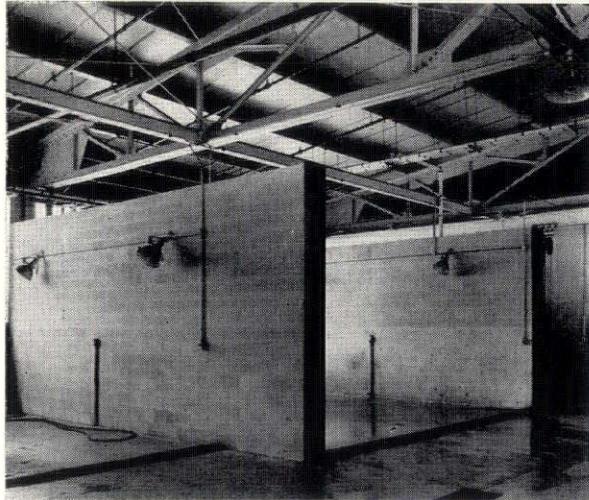
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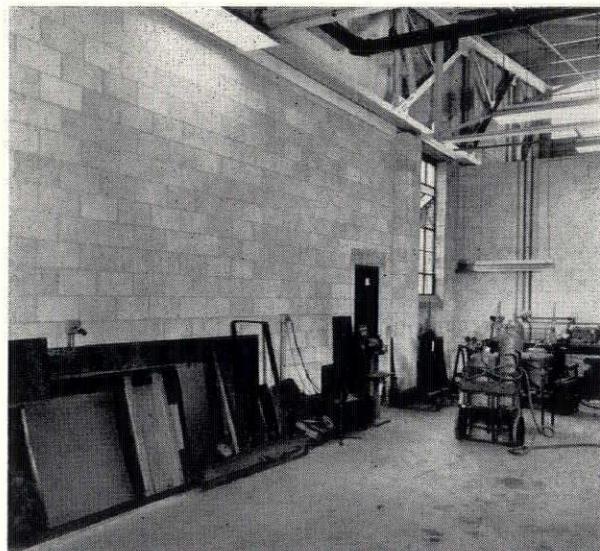
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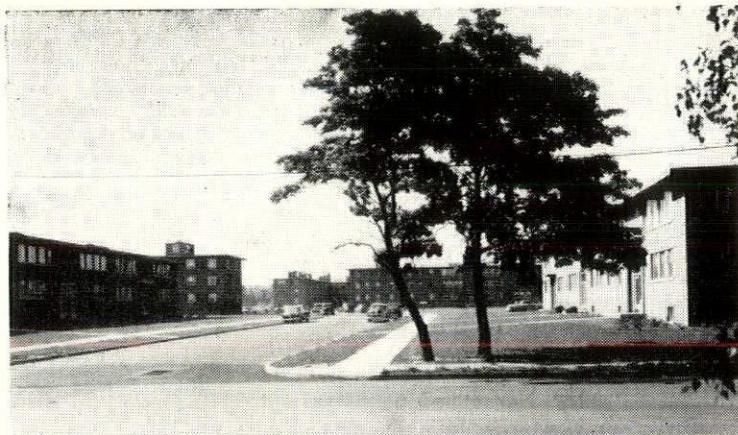
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